Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended paragraph:

> Gypsum plasterboard is produced by combining ~~calium~~ calcium sulphate hemihydrate (stucco) with water to form an aqueous slurry. Uncalcined gypsum having a specific surface area below $0.3m^2/g$ is added to the slurry and the slurry is discharged onto a support so as to form a sheet of gypsum plasterboard.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

> The synthetic gypsum is already in particulate form when it is delivered to the plasterboard factory. However it usually has high free moisture content and typically requires drying before the next stage, calcination. Comminution of natural gypsum is necessary, and usually during this stage the natural gypsum is dried. The next stage (using either natural gypsum or synthetic gypsum) known as calcination removes the chemically combined water of crystallization content to produce plaster powder (stucco). This entails turning calcium sulphate ~~dehydrate~~ dihydrate (gypsum) into calcium sulphate

hemihydrate, commonly known as stucco, calcined gypsum or 'Plaster of Paris.'

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] According to the present invention there is provided a method of preparing gypsum board as claimed ~~In the~~ in the accompanying claims.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] ~~b) discharging~~ c) discharging the slurry onto a support so as to form a sheet of gypsum board wherein said uncalcined gypsum has a specific surface area below $0.3m^2/g$.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Preferably the uncalcined gypsum has a specific surface area within a ~~arrange~~ range of $0.1-0.3m^2/g$.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] **FIG. 3a** also shows an additional input, **49**, of recycled plasterboard which provides additional 'bulk' to the plasterboard being manufactured. This additional bulk further ~~Improves~~ improves the acoustic properties of the plasterboard.